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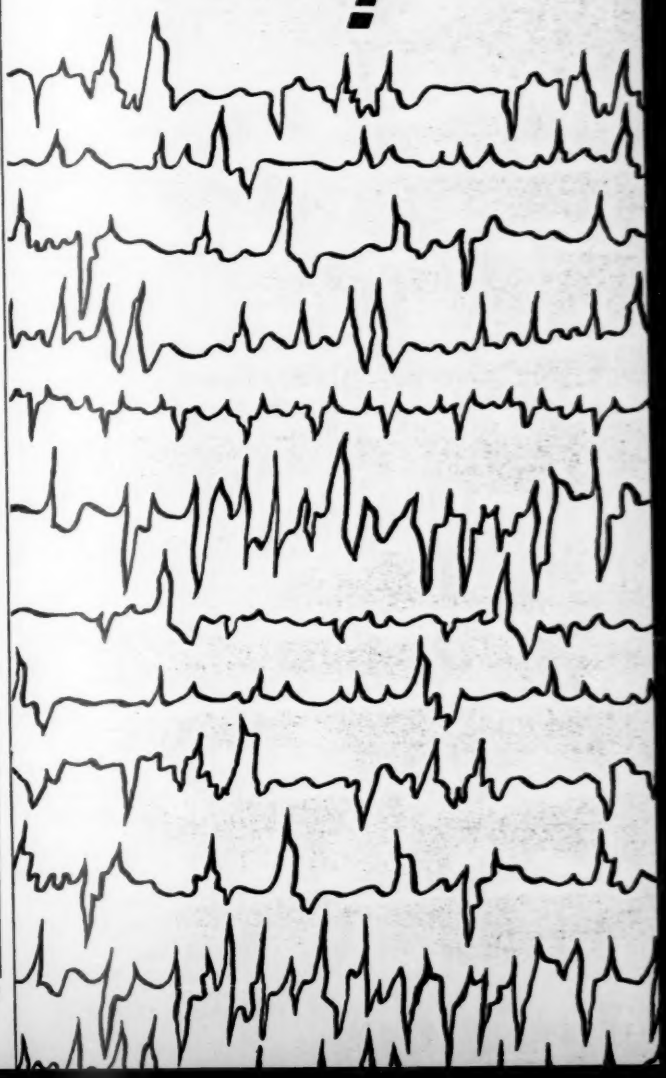
What Type 1 antiarrhythmic agent has:

- *Been rigorously tested in clinical trials involving more than 1,500 patients...*
- *More than 3 million prescriptions filled in less than 3 years of general availability...*[1]
- *More than 3.5 million patient-months of drug experience in the United States alone*[1]

?



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Norpace®
(disopyramide phosphate)

Before prescribing Norpace (disopyramide phosphate), please consult current complete prescribing information, a summary of which follows: ***Indications:*** *For suppression and prevention of recurrence of the following cardiac arrhythmias when they occur singly or in combination: unifocal premature (ectopic) ventricular contractions; premature (ectopic) ventricular contractions of multifocal origin; paired premature ventricular contractions (couplets); and episodes of ventricular tachycardia (persistent ventricular tachycardia is ordinarily treated with D.C. cardioversion). Norpace is equally effective in both digitalized and nondigitalized patients. It is also equally effective in treating primary cardiac arrhythmias and those which occur in association with organic heart disease including coronary artery disease. Oral Norpace has not been adequately studied in patients with acute myocardial infarction or with persistent ventricular tachycardia or atrial arrhythmias and is not indicated for arrhythmias due to digitalis intoxication. The value of antiarrhythmic drugs in preventing sudden death in patients with serious ventricular ectopic activity has not been established.* ***Contraindications:*** *Cardiogenic shock, preexisting second- or third-degree AV block (if no pacemaker is present), or known hypersensitivity to the drug.* ***Warnings: Norpace may cause or worsen congestive heart failure (CHF) or produce severe hypotension as a consequence of its negative inotropic properties. Hypotension has been observed primarily with primary cardiomyopathy or inadequately compensated CHF Norpace should not be used in patients with uncompensated or marginally compensated CHF or hypotension unless the condition is secondary to cardiac arrhythmia. Patients with a history of heart failure may be treated with Norpace, but careful attention must be given to maintaining cardiac function, including optimal digitalization. If hypotension occurs or CHF worsens, Norpace should be discontinued and, if necessary, restarted at a lower dosage only after adequate cardiac compensation has been established. Norpace should be discontinued if significant widening (greater than 25%) of the QRS complex occurs. Prolongation of the Q-T interval (corrected) and worsening of the arrhythmia may occur. Patients who have evidenced prolongation of the Q-T interval in response to quinidine may be at particular risk. If Q-T prolongation greater than 25% is observed and if ectopy continues, the patient should be monitored closely, and discontinuation of Norpace considered. In rare instances significant hypoglycemia has been reported during Norpace therapy. The concomitant use of Norpace with other Type 1 antiarrhythmic agents should be reserved for patients with life-threatening arrhythmias who are demonstrably unresponsive to single agent antiarrhythmic therapy. Such use may produce serious negative inotropic effects, or may excessively prolong conduction. Patients receiving more than one antiarrhythmic drug must be carefully monitored. If first-degree heart block develops, the dosage of Norpace should be reduced. If the block persists, continuation of Norpace must depend upon an assessment of benefit versus risk. Development of second- or third-degree AV block or uni-, bi- or trifascicular block requires discontinuation of Norpace, unless the ventricular rate is adequately controlled by a pacemaker. Because of its anticholinergic activity, Norpace should not be used in patients with glaucoma, myasthenia gravis or urinary retention, unless adequate overriding measures are taken.*** ***Precautions:*** *Patients with atrial flutter or fibrillation should be digitalized prior to Norpace administration to ensure that drug-induced enhancement of AV conduction does not allow a ventricular rate beyond physiologically acceptable limits. The effect of Norpace is presently uncertain in patients with sick sinus syndrome, Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, or bundle branch block. Patients with myocarditis or other cardiomyopathy may develop significant hypotension in response to the usual dosage of Norpace. Norpace dosage should be reduced in patients with impaired renal or hepatic function and the electrocardiogram carefully monitored for signs of overdosage. Antiarrhythmic drugs may be ineffective in patients with hypokalemia. Therefore, any potassium deficit should be corrected before instituting Norpace therapy. Safe use in pregnancy has not been established. Disopyramide has been found in human fetal blood.* ***Norpace has been reported to stimulate contractions of the pregnant uterus.*** *Use of Norpace in pregnant women requires that the potential benefit be weighed against possible hazards to the fetus. Following oral administration, disopyramide has been found in human milk at a concentration not exceeding that in plasma. If use of the drug is deemed essential, an alternate method of infant feeding should be instituted. Effects of Norpace on the fetus during delivery or on the course of labor and delivery are unknown. Safety and effectiveness of Norpace in children have not been established.* ***Adverse Reactions:*** *Dry mouth, urinary hesitancy, constipation, blurred vision, dry nose/eyes/throat, urinary retention, urinary frequency and urgency, impotence, nausea, pain/bloating/gas, anorexia, diarrhea, vomiting, nervousness, dizziness, general fatigue/muscle weakness, headache, malaise, aches/pains, hypotension, congestive heart failure, cardiac conduction disturbances, edema/weight gain, shortness of breath, syncope, chest pain, generalized rash/dermatoses, itching, hypokalemia, elevated cholesterol/triglycerides, depression, insomnia, dysuria, numbness/tingling, elevated liver enzymes, AV block, elevated BUN, elevated creatinine, decreased hemoglobin/hematocrit, and hypoglycemia. Acute psychosis, cholestatic jaundice, and agranulocytosis, all three reversible, have been reported.* ***Dosage and Administration:*** *Dosage must be individualized on the basis of response and tolerance. The usual adult dosage is 400 to 800 mg per day given in divided doses four times daily. The recommended dosage schedule for most adults is 150 mg every six hours. For patients less than 110 pounds (50 kg) the recommended dosage is 100 mg every six hours. If rapid control of arrhythmia is essential, an initial loading dose of 300 mg of Norpace (200 mg for patients less than 110 pounds) is recommended. For patients with cardiomyopathy or possible cardiac decompensation, a loading dose should not be given and the initial dose limited to 100 mg every six hours, with subsequent dosage adjustments made gradually with close monitoring.* ***See current complete prescribing information for dosage recommendations. How Supplied:*** *Capsules containing 100 mg or 150 mg of disopyramide base.*

SEARLE *Searle Laboratories*
Division of Searle Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Box 5110, Chicago, Illinois 60680

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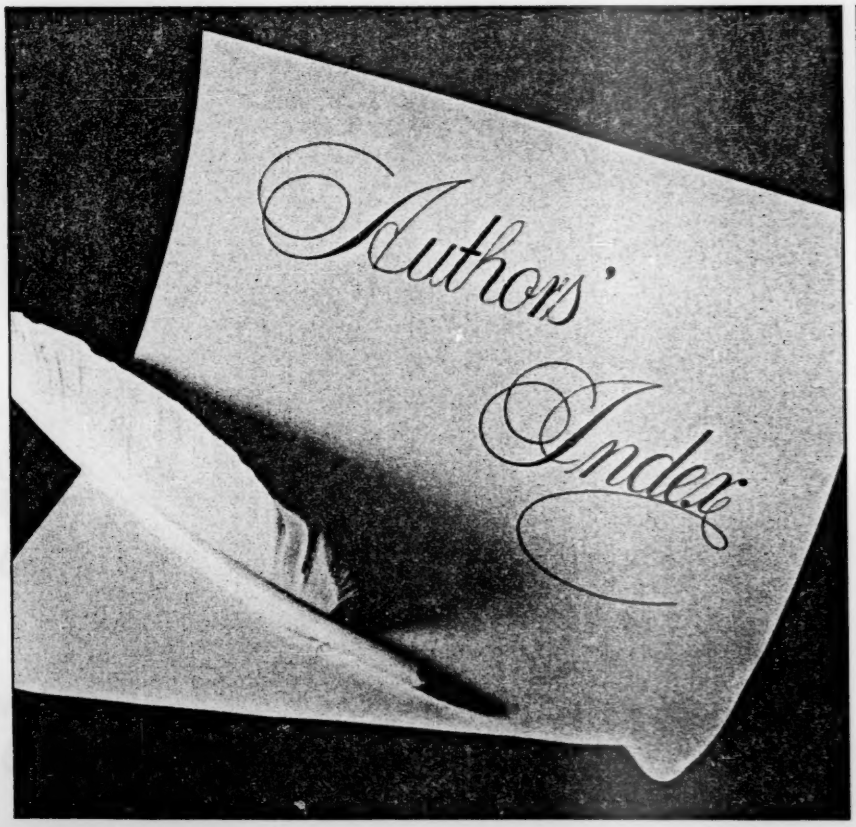

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